

Sub  
C1  
B1

~~1. (TWICE AMENDED) A nonwoven fabric comprising a continuous web consisting of substantially endless thermoplastic melt extruded filaments having a denier of 0.5 to 3, wherein said filaments are hydroentangled in the form of interengaged packed loops, with the filaments being free of breaking, wrapping and knotting, and wherein said hydroentangled web has a cross machine elongation value in excess of 100%.~~

Sub  
C2  
B2

~~13. (TWICE AMENDED) A non-woven fabric comprising a continuous web consisting of substantially endless melt extruded thermoplastic filaments having a denier of about 1.0 to 2.5, wherein said filaments are hydroentangled in the form of interengaged packed loops, with the filaments being substantially free of breaking, wrapping, and knotting; said fabric having a basis weight of between about 20 and 450 gm/m<sup>2</sup>, having a machine direction elongation value of at least 75% and a cross direction value of at least 100%, having a fiber entanglement frequency of at least 10.0, a fiber entanglement completeness value of at least 1.00, a fiber interlock value of at least 15.~~

#### REMARKS

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to remove the word "essentially". The term "consisting of" has a well-defined meaning, see MPEP 2111.03. The transitional phrase "consisting of" excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim. In re Grey, 11 USPQ 255.

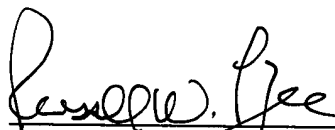
Thus, unlike the teachings in the prior art, the present invention consists of continuous filaments as additionally defined in the claims. The independent claims

exclude the use of individual fibers entangled with filaments. Thus, the independent claims very clearly distinguish over Suskind, which only teaches and discloses simultaneous entanglement of fibers with the filaments, with the fibers being knotted around the filaments to hold the fabric together.

Consideration of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested, together with allowance of Claims 1-4 and 6-13.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Russell W. Pyle", is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW  
CHANGES MADE

Claim 45 has been canceled.

Claims 1, and 13 have been amended as follows:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A nonwoven fabric comprising a continuous web consisting [essentially] of substantially endless thermoplastic melt extruded filaments having a denier of 0.5 to 3, wherein said filaments are hydroentangled in the form of interengaged packed loops, with the filaments being free of breaking, wrapping and knotting, and wherein said hydroentangled web has a cross machine elongation value in excess of 100%.

13. (TWICE AMENDED) A non-woven fabric comprising a continuous web consisting [essentially] of substantially endless melt extruded thermoplastic filaments having a denier of about 1.0 to 2.5, wherein said filaments are hydroentangled in the form of interengaged packed loops, with the filaments being substantially free of breaking, wrapping, and knotting; said fabric having a basis weight of between about 20 and 450 gm/m<sup>2</sup>, having a machine direction elongation value of at least 75% and a cross direction value of at least 100%, having a fiber entanglement frequency of at least 10.0, a fiber entanglement completeness value of at least 1.00, a fiber interlock value of at least 15.